



The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling

By Rachel Gathercole

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Socialization may well be the single most important aspect of education today. With high and rising rates of divorce, drug abuse, youth violence, alcoholism, teen promiscuity, and so forth, we cannot afford to let this issue go unexamined. To cling to the idea that what we, as a culture, are doing now is the right and best way for all children simply because it is what we are used to is to shut our eyes and minds to other possibilities—possibilities that may well afford greater happiness, success, peace, and safety to our own children. At a time when people feel more disconnected than ever before, we cannot afford to overlook or allow ourselves to be blinded to an option which offers great benefits, including a rich, fulfilling, and healthy social life, that our children may well need for the future. Homeschooling offers great social benefits to kids and parents. And when we understand them, our children are the ones who will win.

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Editorial Review

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Gathercole, who has spent 10 years homeschooling her three children, says what most people wonder about is whether homeschooled children can work and play with others, in other words, their socialization skills. She begins by noting that "once upon a time, all children were homeschooled" before more formal schooling and the development of "school culture." She notes that conventional schools offer "socialization" through peer pressure, the stress of choosing between popularity and academic performance, and excessive attention to appearance. Drawing on her own experiences as a homeschooler, she details the networks of other homeschoolers who provide opportunities for their children—and themselves—to socialize. Gathercole also points to research showing that homeschooled children have stronger self-concepts than children attending conventional schools. Focusing on how homeschoolers address misperceptions, she explores concepts of socialization, the importance of friendships with other children, strong relationships with parents, and how homeschoolers eventually integrate into the "real world." Great encouragement for parents who are homeschooling and those who are considering it. Bush, Vanessa

Review

"The definitive book regarding the socialization question surrounding homeschooling." -- *Foreword Magazine*, July-August 2007

From the Publisher

From Library Journal

In his sociological study *Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Homeschooling Movement*, Mitchell L. Stevens divides homeschoolers into two groups: those from the Christian day-school movement and those from the alternative school movement. First-time author Gathercole seems to be one of the latter and has here assembled the most common questions regarding the social aspects of homeschooling (e.g., "Don't the kids miss out on socialization?") and answers based in opinion, fact, and personal accounts from homeschoolers and their children. This formula works. Gathercole persuasively argues that homeschooling is not isolating but can be a sophisticated approach to socializing and educating children. The personal accounts especially challenge our cultural construct that school life is synonymous with childhood. While considering the social benefits of homeschooling, Gathercole also illuminates contemporary problems with public education. With a short list of web and print resources, this is not a how-to book, however. It is a successful albeit repetitious and elementary consideration of the topic intended for families in the initial stages of investigating homeschooling. Suitable for public libraries with large collections on the subject. Fran Mentch, Cleveland State Univ. Lib.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Allen:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite

from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

James Crist:

This The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great plan word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no publication that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen second right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

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